THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTR OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is inadequate passenger demand between Delhi and Silchar to warrant the introduction of a daily flight on this sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Public Distribution System

1758. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government regarding exclusion of Income Tax payers from the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any memoranda or complaints in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government proposes to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) with its focus on the poor. The details are being worked out in consultation with the States/UTs and in the light of views that may be received on the subject.

[English]

Labour Courts in Assam

1759. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Labour Courts with their locations functioning in Assam;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such courts in every district of the State in view of the huge labour force in the State, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per the information received from the Government of Assam there are two Labour Courts one each at Guwahati and Dibrugarh, are functioning in the State of Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Meeting of Trade Unions with P.M.

1760. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether representatives of various Trade Unions in the country met the Prime Minister recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting, and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Prime Minister met representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations on 24th June, 1996 to hear the views of the Trade Unions on matters concerning the workers such as (i) labour protection and social security for agricultural labour, (ii) Uniform minimum wage, (iii) recognition of trade unions based on secrat ballot, (iv) elimination of child labour, (v) amendments to Industrial Disputes and Trade Union Acts etc. The trade union leaders stressed the need for creating a proper and congenial atmosphere for maintaining industrial harmony in the country. They laid emphasis on taking measures for protection and generation of employment and employment benefits, review of the functioning of BIFR; revival of NTC mills; comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers, comprehensive measures for elimination of child labour etc. The suggestions made by the Trade Union Leaders have been noted and steps have been taken for more effective enforcement of labour welfare measures, for intensification of labour inspections and strengthening of the labour enforcement machinery.

Revision of Scheme for Foreign Tourists

1761. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to revise the scheme for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the highlights of the proposed scheme, and

(d) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) With a view to attracting foreign tourists to India, the Department of Tourism adopts an overseas marketing strategy which is aimed at bringing maximum number of foreign tourists to the country. This is done by way of identifying thrust markets as also new segments.

The marketing strategy is flexible and takes into account changes taking place in the market situation